(c) if so, what is the Government's policy regarding the introduction of these multinational products in the country; and

(d) what effect they are likely to have on indigenous products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings, Inc. USA has submitted an application for the manufacture of Proprietory compound preparations and extracts to be used in the manufacture of concentrates for non-alcoholic beverages in the NOIDA Export Processing Zone. The application is under consideration of the Government. M/s. Pepsico Inc., USA had sent a communication by telex to the Government of India expressing their concern in this regard.

Hike in the prices of Nickel, Tin and Zinc

1262. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA :Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC, which is a canalising agency, has hiked the prices of Nickel, Tin and Zinc;

(b) if so, what is its impact on industries which use these basic metals;

(c) what are the reasons for the increase: and

(d) whether this growth will adversely affect the growth of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The domestic prices of nickel, tin and zinc are fixed every month by a Pricing Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Controller of Imports & Exports after taking into account the landed cost of imports by Mineral & Metals Trading Corporation Limited (MMTC), the canalising agency, with the prevailing import duties added. Thus, any increase in the international prices of these metals has a direct bearing on the domestic prices.

The prices of these non-ferrous metals since January, 1989 are indicated below:

Rs. per tonne

	Nickel	Tin	Zinc
January, '89 . . .	3,54,000	2,52,000	39,800
February, '89 . . .	3,75,000	2,52,000	42,500
March, '89 . . .	4,08,000	2,65,000	48,200
April, '89	4,23,000	2,96,000	50,500
May, '89	4,23,000	3,88,000	50,500

The production as well as growth of the down stream industries have not shown any decline due to increase in the prices of these non-ferrous metals. However, the price of the these non-ferrows metals have a bearing on the cost of production of manufactured goods to the extent of their use.